

Eco-Community Dialogues Newsletter

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Organic Outpaces the U.S. Food Industry

Organic is outpacing the U.S. food industry as a whole, three times over. During the past five-years U.S. organic food sales grew 35%, and is up to \$29 billion.

According to the ORGANIC TRADE ASSOCIATION the U.S. organic consumers would like their organic food to be *locally* grown in the U.S. But sadly, the U.S. Farm Belt is NOT keeping up with U.S. organic consumer demands.

According to *George Siemon*, the *Chief Executive* of ORGANIC VALLEY, the largest cooperative of organic farmers in America, when the U.S. Farm Belt finally goes organic, then the needs of our booming domestic "Certified Organic" market will be supplied locally.

After stopping the vicious GMO cycle, it takes the soil three-years of abstinence from GMO-seeds and their pollutant practices before the GMO-free transitional crops are fully able to become "Certified Organic".

The problem is that our federal government has been subsidizing the Farm Belt to continue ruining our soil with the GMO agricultural practices. Unfortunately for American citizens, the U.S. is the world's largest exporter of subsidized GMO corn and subsidized GMO soybeans. The other problem is that now our domestic U.S. soil is all locked up with GMO's because of the false premise that our Farm Belt has to feed the world, rather than feed our own.

The soil lock-up situation in the U.S. is so bad that American organic food makers have to import organic ingredients from CHINA and INDIA. For example, imports of organic soybeans doubled last year and could surpass \$100 million this year.

The U.S. has shortchanged its own future so much, that it has shorted itself of organic suppliers. AMY'S KITCHEN Inc. of *Petaluma*, CALIFORNIA struggles to find enough organic corn and organic soy for its prepared organic foods. AMY'S KITCHEN is making three-year contracts with U.S. organic farmers rather than import from CHINA.

PERDUE AGRIBUSINESS markets organic animal feed and views imports as a stop-gap measure until domestic supplies catch up with demand.

Scott Sechler, owner of BELL & EVANS located in *Fredericksburg*, PENNSYLVANIA, is one of the largest U.S. organic poultry producers. In order to avoid damaging the trust of his organic consumers who are willing to pay twice as much for organic products, he pays more by shunning imports.

Christopher Ely, Co-founder of APPLEGATE FARMS says that some of his hot dog and deli meat suppliers may import from CHINA. The bottom line is that organic feed needed by the organic dairy and organic meat producers is falling short by U.S. suppliers, so foreign overseas suppliers fill the U.S. consumer demands.

(Source: July 15, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "A Gap in Organic Food Chain" by Mark Peters)

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The Death of Water

According to the GULF OF MEXICO WATER NUTRIENT TASK FORCE the dead zones should be a learning lesson for the *U.S. policymakers, scientists, and the United Nations* because THE POLLUTION CAUSED BY THE U.S. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S PUSH TO INCREASE GMO CORN PRODUCTION IN AMERICA HAS MADE MATTERS WORSE FOR CLEAN-UP EFFORTS.

The task force has concluded that THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER lets out into the GULF OF MEXICO, THE MOST INFAMOUS U.S. DEAD ZONE. The dead zone in the GULF OF MEXICO is 8,500 square miles of water.

According to the task force chemical fertilizers throughout the MISSISSIPPI BASIN REGION need to be eliminated, there needs to be a reduction in nitrogen levels, better monitoring of agricultural practices, reduction in industrial emissions, and reduction of sewage.

A 2008 study found more than 400 dead zones worldwide. That's a lot of clean-up jobs. There is notable clean-up work needing to be done off the coast of OREGON and off the coast of VIRGINIA.

Dead zones are problematic to the world's eco-system, so the next question to ask is whether OREGON has assigned a "Water Nutrient Task Force" to get the ball rolling. It's time to ask which river lets out into the dead zone off the coast of OREGON.

In addressing OREGON's notable dead zone, it is important to note that the Gulf's task force has already established that the prevalence of dead zones is just since the 1970's. The entire world was GMO-free prior to the 1970's. There may be other causatives as well, such as nuclear leakage. The dead zones are real and OREGON and VIRGINIA need to find the best possible solutions, it's not just the GULF OF MEXICO. We must look at the speck in our own eye. *Dead zones are reversible if their causes are eliminated.*

(Source: August 22, DAILY TIDINGS, "Dead Zones in Oceans" by Rod Sheer and Doug Moss, E-The Environmental Magazine, earthtalk@emagazine.com, www.epa.gov/owow/keep/msbasin)

The Role Hanford Plays

The PLUTONIUM for the "Fat Man" atomic bomb that the U.S. dropped on Nagasaki, JAPAN, on August 9, 1945, was created at HANFORD. The OREGON PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY have for many years remained vigilant in reminding the PACIFIC NORTHWEST of the lives lost during the atomic blasts 68-years ago. This year's *Portland*, OREGON, Hiroshima and Nagasaki vigil event was on August 6, and the conscientious doctors featured speakers that educated *Portlanders* about the HANFORD connection to the bombing of Nagasaki, JAPAN.

They featured *Portland Taiko* and *Satori Men's Chorus* performances. OREGON NIKKEI ENDOWMENT partnered with them by exhibiting art, performance, and photographic print reminders of the medical and environmental consequences of nuclear radiation, from production to utilization.

The nuclear production chain includes mining, milling, conversion, enrichment, fuel pellet manufacture, nuclear plant construction, processing, infrastructure support, operation of electric generators to keep the fuel rods constantly cool to prevent catastrophic meltdown, radioactive waste storage, radioactive waste processing, radioactive waste incineration, radioactive waste vitrification, radioactive waste monitoring, radioactive waste decommissioning and decontamination, attempted mitigation "clean up" of accidents, and an ending dump site for to be determined. How ecologically sustainable is any of it, compared to solar cells and wind turbines. It's something for the deluded to think about.

The WASHINGTON PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY together with the INSTITUTE OF NEURTOXICOLOGY AND NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS designed a "*Particles on the Wall*" educational exhibit to educate the public about **The Hanford Nuclear Reservation**. The *Art and Science* theme featured literary and visual arts, historical memorabilia, and science displays, to help promote their annual "Peace Work" writing scholarship.

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The curators of the "Particles on the Wall" exhibit were *Dianne Dickeman, Nancy Dickeman, and Steven Gilbert*. The exhibit travelled to nine cities in WASHINGTON, then came to *Portland, OREGON*.

The Portland vigil concluded with a ceremonial walk from the *Portland Waterfront* at Northwest Naito Parkway and Couch Street over to the OREGON NIKKEI LEGACY CENTER at 121 Northwest 2nd Avenue.

The Columbia River

OREGON Governor Kitzhaber and WASHINGTON Governor Inslee implored the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY for urgency in building dry cask storage waste tanks for the Columbia Generating Station nuclear reactor at HANFORD.

Hanford's pool rod tanks are *leaking*. The leaking chemical and radioactive wastes are moving through the groundwater to the COLUMBIA RIVER that lets into the PACIFIC OCEAN.

The *Columbia Generating Station* is of similar design to the FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI nuclear plant. There are safety risks that are too dangerous and too expensive than to continue the operation. It's an elephant in the room.

The whole nuclear energy mess is a zoo, but it is putting the cart before the horse to do interim or permanent storage elsewhere. That's like singing about pink elephants on the ceiling, pink elephants on the wall instead of putting first things first. First, deal with the elephant in the room, on-site.

Hanford waste needs to be loaded into dry caskets that are air-cooled and can be protected by bunkers on-site. After that is done, then sing the song about polka dotted alligators strutting down the hall on highways like I-5.

OREGON Senator Ron Wyden introduced a bill to find a volunteer interim site for nuclear waste storage, but that could take years when there is no time to dawdle. Listen and you might hear the tick, tick, ticking of the atomic clock. If you are old enough to remember the song about the elephants in the room, the refrain went, "Oh, aren't we crazy". It's crazy that Man created radioactive nuclear wastes as a legacy for generations to come.

The problem with Wyden's bill is that it does nothing to address the HANFORD waste tank danger. It also does not address the danger of radioactive wastes at the other U.S. nuclear power plants. It does not address that the majority of these wastes have cooled sufficiently and they should be loaded into safer dry cask storage.

(Source: Summer 2013 OREGON PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, "The Folded Crane" by John Pearson, MD, Board President, "Senator Wyden's Nuclear Waste Bill Neglects Immediate Dangers" by Andy Harris, MD, PSR Advisory Board Member, and NUCLEAR POWER TASK FORCE, chuck@oregonpst.org)

The Cascades

There have been three major nuclear disasters. Prior to FUKUSHIMA, the largest nuclear power disaster was CHERNOBYL, in 1986. It was a worse catastrophe than Three-Mile Island in 1979. A 2010 NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCE report asserts that about 40,000 of the 600,000 Soviets that cleaned up CHERNOBYL have died of radiation injuries and 200,000 more left incapacitated with 1,000,000 world citizens dying as a result of CHERNOBYL despite the Nuclear Industry's denial.

Here is what is known about the original accident, the worst nuclear accident in the history of the world: On March 11, 2011, a 9.0 earthquake and tsunami halted all functions of the four total GENERAL ELECTRIC Mark 1 model FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI boiling water reactors, each of which contained 100 tons of nuclear fuel, including weapons grade plutonium in Units 3, and 4.

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March 11, 2011, *Reactor One* had a total meltdown. Then on March 13, 2011, *Reactor Three* with plutonium melted, causing a hydrogen explosion, that melted *Reactor Two*, and it also had a hydrogen explosion. The hydrogen explosions triggered a NUCLEAR EXPLOSION from the triple reactors. **The live surveillance video images look like nuclear bomb defonation.**

The NUCLEAR PLUME was released directly over the PACIFIC OCEAN, and a strong jet stream carried the plume to the PACIFIC NORTHWEST. On March 18, 2011 the nuclear cloud's radioactive fallout arrived at the CASCADE MOUNTAIN RANGE by the beach. *The nuclear hot particles rained down over the CASCADES.*

Hot nuclear particles wafted to Vancouver, BC; Seattle, WASHINGTON; the San Francisco Bay Area of CALIFORNIA; and as far East as MASSACHUSETTS, PENNSYLVANIA, and VERMONT, according to data analysis by Professor Marco Kaltofen of WORCHESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE (WPI), who presented the data to the AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION (APHA). Up to 10 hot particles a day were inhaled by North Americans. The data was confirmed by Arnie Gunderson, former NUCLEAR INDUSTRY Vice-President.

Professor Tatsuhiko Kodama, head of the RADIOISOTOPE CENTER at THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO testified to the COMMITTEE ON WELFARE AND LABOR in JAPAN that the thermal output of "the original accident" compared to 20 atomic bombs, such as were dropped on Hiroshima, and the heat decrease in one year would be only one-tenth of the heat decrease that had been experienced at Hiroshima.

Now do you understand why OREGON Senator Ron Wyden begged **U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE Hillary Clinton** and **U.S. ENERGY SECRETARY Steven Chu** a year ago to make FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI priority. JAPAN was in overwhelm dealing with the earthquake and tsunami and the whole world's nuclear experts need to attend to FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI as an international crisis priority. For more informational updates please see the following links.

<http://www.nuclearhotseat.com/>
<http://fairewinds.com/content/dial-m-meltdown-brian-rich>
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFSFDmWVzU&feature=player_embedded
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/124537680994270/#!/groups/124537680994270/>
<http://www.change.org/petitions/urgent-fukushima-radioactive-fallout-food-safety-petition>,
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dD-tDlQvyiw>, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1hcBGSr9QGk>

There was only one reactor meltdown at CHERNOBYL, with FUKUSHIMA there were three reactor meltdowns, and when the fourth reactor's damaged fuel rod pool collapses, another nuclear explosion is expected. THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR EVENT SCALE (INES) lists FUKUSHIMA at a level 7 because there is no higher level 8. It is still fissuring.

(Source: SILENCE DEAFENING by Kimberly Roberson, founder of FUKUSHIMA FALLOUT AWARENESS NETWORK. You may reach her at ffan@sonic.net, www.silencedeafening.com)

The Oregon Coast Economic Summit

At the OREGON COAST ECONOMIC SUMMIT, on August 29, Senator Jeff Merkley announced he is introducing the "Marine Debris Emergency Act" bill to expedite the NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) grant process because the state of OREGON needs an urgent response to help the OREGON beach communities. Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici introduced the "Marine Debris Emergency Act" companion bill earlier this year. The responders to the debris have just been community groups. Changes need to be made in regards to the Marine Debris program because debris from such an extreme event as FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI needs to be dealt with by state as well as local resources.

(Source: August 29 OREGON LEGAL JOURNAL, "Merkley to Introduce 'Marine Debris Emergency Act' "for federal assistance for tsunami debris cleanup, press release)
